BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY, ETC.

MARCH 31, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Wadsworth, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7780.]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7780) for the establishment of a Bureau of Animal Industry, etc.,

submit the following report:

This is a bill recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture and is merely a codification of the several acts of Congress under which the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture was established and is now working, together with a few amendments which have been suggested by experience.

The chief amendments are as follows:

Section 5 is new, and is intended to prevent the infection of railroad cars with contagious diseases, because such cars are sent all over the country; also, to prevent the infection of stock yards through which cattle must pass in interstate trade.

Section 6 is to secure the disinfection of such cars and stock yards as are used in interstate shipment of animals, if by any chance these

become infected.

Section 13 is to extend the meat inspection to all kinds of meat for exportation, instead of limiting it (as at present) to beef and pork. This inspection, however, is not made mandatory, but is only to be made at the request of the owner.

Section 14 is to compel the packer to mark the kind of meat contained in the package, showing the species of animal from which it came—this to prevent the packing of horse meat and marking it beef,

etc.

Section 15: This section is amended to make the penalty apply to all cases where the intent of the law is violated. The section as now in force is not broad enough, i. e., packers have been placing on packages certificates purporting to show that the contents had been inspected by the Agricultural Department, when, as a matter of fact, they had not been so inspected.

Section 17 is to prevent the running of abattoirs at irregular hours

without the presence of an inspector.

Section 20 is to secure proper disposition of condemned meat. At present condemned meat may be sold to local dealers, and then, when beyond the supervision of inspectors, may be resold and sent to other States.

Section 21: This section is so amended as to prevent the importation of meats which have not been inspected. At present, although the law

requires the inspection of meats killed in this country, there is nothing to prevent the killing and packing of meat in Canada and the selling of it in the United States without inspection.

Section 31 is to provide against the incurrence of bills for the feeding of animals in quarantine, which bills the United States, under existing

laws, would have to pay.

Section 37: This section authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to microscopically examine pork and other hog products at the request and expense of the owner thereof. Certain foreign countries refuse to accept our pork and hog products without certificates of official inspection, and it appears to be just that the owner should pay the cost of such inspection.

Other amendments are slight and are mostly in the nature of correcting ambiguities in the wording of existing law, and, as amended, your committee unanimously recommend the passage of the accompanying

bill.